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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
UND

JANUARY 5, 1953

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The Department has given consideration to the proposal outlined in your letter of December 18, 1952 to amend the language of Executive Order 10408 to provide that the area in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to be transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of the Navy shall include the entire Northern Marianas District of the Trust Territory rather than only the islands of Saipan and Tinian as is presently provided by the Executive Order. The Department notes that this proposal is recommended by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

In view of the decision recorded in Executive Order 10408 to transfer the administration of Saipan and Tinian to the Department of the Navy and the problems, as outlined in your letter, which would result if the remaining islands of the Northern Marianas District are separately administered, the Department concurs in the proposal outlined in your letter.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

/s/ John D. Hickerson  
John D. Hickerson  
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable  
Dan A. Kinball  
Secretary of the Navy